

Dr. Bridges remarked, that he had tried the experiment by scraping iron under mercury, but had not succeeded in effecting any amalgamation. He considered, that the amalgamation in the case, which he had described at the last meeting, was complete.

The Treasurer reported, that the whole expenses of the centennial celebration amounted to six hundred and eleven dollars and two cents.

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*Stated Meeting, August 16th.*

Present, fourteen members.

Dr. CHAPMAN, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were announced and read:—

From the Horticultural Society, dated London, May 7th, 1844:—

From the Linnæan Society, dated London, May 29th, 1844: and

From the Zoological Society, dated London, May 16th, 1844; respectively acknowledging the receipt of Part I, Vol. IX. of the Transactions of this Society.

The following donations were announced:—

FOR THE LIBRARY.

Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. For the Year 1841. 2 Parts. 4to. For the Year 1843. 2 Parts. 4to.—*From the Royal Society.*

List of the Royal Society, 30th November, 1843. 4to.—*From the same.*

Proceedings of the Royal Society. Nos. 56 to 58, inclusive, 1842, 1843. 8vo.—*From the same.*

Magnetical and Meteorological Observations made at the Royal Observatory, Greenwich, in the Years 1840 and 1841; under the direction of George Biddell Airy, Esq., M. A., Astronomer Royal. Published by order of the Board of Admiralty, in obedience to Her Majesty's command. London, 1843. 4to.—*From the same.*

- Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, for the Year 1842-3. Part VII. Dublin, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Academy.*
- The American Journal of Science and Arts. Conducted by Professor Silliman, and Benjamin Silliman, Jr. Vol. XLVII. No. I. July, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Editors.*
- The African Repository and Colonial Journal. July and August, 1844. Vol. XX. Nos. 7 and 8. 8vo.—*From the American Colonization Society.*
- Journal of the Franklin Institute of the State of Pennsylvania. Third Series. Vol. VIII. August, 1844. No. 2. 8vo.—*From Dr. R. M. Patterson.*
- The Medical News and Library. Vol. II. August, 1844. No. 20. 8vo.—*From Lea & Blanchard.*
- A Theory of the Structure of the Sidereal Heavens, including an Explanation of the Phenomena of Via Lactea and Nebulæ; founded on a new Astronomical Doctrine; being a General Explication of the Astral Collocations upon Geometrical Principles. Part the First. London, 1842. 4to. Anon.—*From the Author.*
- An Elementary Treatise on Mineralogy: comprising an Introduction to the Science. By William Phillips, F. L. S. etc. Fifth Edition, from the Fourth London Edition. By Francis Alger. Boston, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Editor, F. Alger.*
- The Practice of Medicine: a Treatise on Special Pathology and Therapeutics. By Robley Dunglison, M. D., Professor of the Institutes of Medicine in Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia; Secretary of the American Philosophical Society, etc. etc. Second Edition. Philadelphia, 1844. 2 Vols. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- Human Health; or the Influence of Atmosphere and Locality; Change of Air and Climate; Seasons; Food; Clothing, etc. etc.; constituting Elements of Hygiène. By Robley Dunglison, M.D., etc. etc. A new Edition, with many Modifications and Additions. Philadelphia, 1844. 8vo.—*From the Author.*
- An Autograph Letter from the Rev. Nevil Maskelyne, B.D., F.R.S., Astronomer Royal, to the Rev. Dr. Ewing, formerly Provost of the University of Pennsylvania, dated Greenwich, August 4th, 1775, on the subject of a Project for erecting an Observatory at Philadelphia.—*From Harrison Hall, Esq.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY BY PURCHASE.

- Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society of London. For the Year 1808. Part 2. 4to. N. B. The first part of this Vol. is wanting.

Comptes Rendus Hebdomadaires des Séances de l'Académie des Sciences, par MM. les Secrétaires Perpetuels. Tome XVIII. Nos. 19 to 22 inclusive. 4to.

Tables des Comptes Rendus. Deuxième Semestre, 1843. Tome XVII. 4to.

Dr. Patterson presented a communication, entitled "Observations for the Magnetic Dip, made at several positions, chiefly on the South-western and North-eastern portions of the United States, and of the Magnetic Declination at two points on the River Sabine, in 1840, by Major James D. Graham, of the U. S. Corps of Topographical Engineers," which was referred to a Committee, consisting of Mr. Walker, Dr. Patterson, and Professor Frazer.

An autograph letter from Dr. N. Maskelyne, Astronomer Royal, to the Rev. Dr. Ewing, dated Greenwich, Aug. 4, 1775, in relation to a projected Observatory at Philadelphia, was presented to the Society by Mr. Harrison Hall, and read by the Secretary.

*Greenwich, Aug. 4, 1775.*

Sir,—I received your late favour, together with your observations of the comet of 1770, and some of that of 1769, for which I thank you, and shall, I believe, communicate to the Royal Society as you give me leave. In the present unhappy situation of American affairs, I have not the least idea that any thing can be done toward selecting an observatory at Philadelphia, and therefore cannot think it proper for me to take any part in any memorial you may think proper to lay before my Lord North at present. I do not mean, however, to discourage you from presenting any memorial from yourself. Were an observatory to be erected at Philadelphia, I do not know any person at Philadelphia more capable of taking the care of it than yourself. Should Lord North do me the honour to ask my opinion about the utility of erecting an observatory at Philadelphia, I should then be enabled to speak out, being always a well-wisher to the promotion of science. You did not distinguish whether the times of your observations were apparent or mean time.

I am, sir,

Your most humble servant,

N. MASKELYNE.

The Rev. Dr. EWING,

At No. 25 Ludgate Street.

Mr. Smith drew the attention of the Society to sundry improvements in the manufacture of glass for telescopes, and read an extract from the 18th Vol. of the Comptes Rendus, being a communication from M. Arago in relation to the cost of lenses of immense magnitude, which a manufacturer in France proposes to fabricate. The advantages attainable from lenses of such magnitude, some of which have been ordered by the French government, were depicted by Mr. Smith, whose observations gave occasion to remarks from Mr. Justice and Dr. Patterson.

Dr. DUNGLISON, Reporter, laid before the Society No. 30 of the Proceedings of the Society, from April to June inclusive.

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*Stated Meeting, September 20.*

Present, twenty-eight members.

Dr. BACHE, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Letters were announced and read:—

From the Secretary of State, dated Washington, August 24, 1844, announcing that he had forwarded eighteen volumes of the Documents of the Third Session of the Twenty-seventh Congress, for the Library of the Society:—

From the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, Manufactures, and Commerce, dated London, July 17, 1844, acknowledging the receipt of Nos. 28 and 29 of the Proceedings of this Society:—

From Mr. Edward Newman, dated London, July 20, 1844, acknowledging the receipt of Vol. VIII., and the first part of Vol. IX. of the Transactions of this Society; and announcing that he had sent for the Library the third and last part of his History of British Ferns:—

From Col. TOTTEN, dated Engineer Department, Washington, August 21, 1844, on presenting to the Library a copy of Papers on Practical Engineering, No. 2; being a special report on the sea wall at Lovell's Island, in the harbour of Boston, by Col. S. THAYER, Corps of Engineers:—